

Title VI Overview

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is a non-discrimination statute. Specifically, Title VI, as amended, provides that: No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, or creed, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

What types of discrimination are prohibited?

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 does not ban all discrimination. The Act forbids illegal discrimination. That is discrimination based on race, color, or national origin. Later statutes contained nondiscrimination provisions based on sex, age, and disability.

How does Title VI apply to you?

The US Department of Transportation (USDOT) gives broad meaning to the phrase "Federal financial assistance." NHDOT receives Federal financial assistance, in one form or another, under various USDOT programs, but it doesn't end there. Much of that Federal assistance is passed on to other entities or "recipients." Accordingly, each recipient is required to comply with the stipulations embodied in the Standard Title VI Assurances. Like assurances have been incorporated into all Federal program agreements sponsored by our agency. [View Standard Title VI Assurances.](#)

Does Title VI apply to all of a recipients programs and activities?

Yes. The ban on discrimination in all programs and activities is based on receiving Federal financial assistance. For purposes of the Act, any receipt of Federal financial assistance obligates the recipient during the period for which financial assistance is extended. The assistance may be received directly or indirectly and does not have to be money. If the recipient uses that assistance for contract, certain Federal contract requirements or stipulations must be incorporated into the contract agreement. In addition, the recipient must ensure that the funding is not used in a discriminatory manner, having a disparate impact on a particular group or segment of protected individuals. In this regard, recipients must understand the demographic make-up of populations that benefit (or that may be denied benefits) from Federally assisted programs or projects.

What is Environmental Justice?

Environmental Justice (EJ) is a component of Title VI. The Department's EJ Program seeks to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-

income populations. Environmental Justice places emphasis on encouraging participation of low-income and minority populations in the transportation decision making process. Additionally, it safeguards against disproportionately high and adverse health affects, and ensures that low-income and minority populations, where they exist, receive their fair share of transportation benefits.